

have caused delays. "I don't think anybody is happy with the current fusing," one Army official said.

Two people close to the Navy said recently that reports of civilian casualties have reignited what they called a stalled Navy effort to modify one type of grenade considered notoriously unreliable by experts. A military report indicates 36,179 such grenades were used in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Stephen Lee, who manages an Army program to upgrade cluster-weapon safety, said, "There have been major improvements; it's just that they're not fielded yet."

Speaking about a type of grenade used widely in Iraq, Lee said, "There really is no difference in terms of the dud rate between the first Gulf War and the most recent conflict in Iraq."

Experts say the military has focused on building new precision weapons systems. "Safety and collateral damage are not as high a priority as mission effectiveness," said David Ochmanek, a RAND Corp. defense analyst who was a deputy assistant defense secretary in the Clinton administration.

The Defense Department defended its recent use of cluster weapons in Iraq. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, blamed the civilian casualties on Hussein for deliberately placing Iraqi weapons in populated areas where they would draw return fire. "War is not a tidy affair. It's a very ugly affair," Myers said in April. "And this enemy had no second thoughts about putting its own people at risk."

The U.S. military has known about the dangers of the unexploded grenades for decades, since the Vietnam War, when Viet Cong fighters used unexploded grenades as land mines against the U.S. forces that fired them by the millions.

In the three decades since, the duds have killed thousands in Laos, says the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Red Cross, human rights groups and the European Parliament have campaigned to ban cluster-weapon use until nations agree to improve grenade reliability, avoid firing them in populated areas and regulate their cleanup.

The United States did little in the 1970s and 1980s to improve the reliability of the grenades, said Darold Griffin, former deputy director for research and development in the Army Material Command. "Some felt duds were an asset on the battlefield. You fire them into an area where an enemy is, and having some duds decreases his freedom of movement," he said.

Countries that have fought wars on their own soil, most notably Israel, have made improvements, out of fear that duds would harm their own civilians and under public pressure. Israeli-made grenades now have a dud rate of less than 1 percent, said Davison, the Israeli Military Industries official. The company has sold tens of millions of grenades to Britain, Germany, Denmark and Finland, and to Switzerland, which has proposed international standards to improve grenade reliability.

Sweden also requires its cluster grenades to have secondary fuses, said Lt. Col. Olof Carelius of the Swedish Armed Forces.

Grenades fail to detonate mostly when their landing impact is lessened, because they fall on a soft surface or sloped terrain, or they collide in midair and lose speed. The Pentagon says many grenades fail only 2 percent of the time but acknowledges dud rates are difficult to ascertain and vary widely depending on conditions. It says the weapons are ideal for hitting spread-out targets like troop formations and tank columns.

But the consequences of failure rates are magnified by the numbers of grenades used:

To destroy one air-defense system covering 100 square yards requires 75 rockets, each carrying 644 grenades—a total of 48,300. The 16 percent failure rate listed by the Pentagon produces 7,728 unexploded grenades, scattering them over 600 square yards.

Bonnie Docherty, part of a Human Rights Watch team that recently spent a month surveying battle damage throughout Iraq, said she "saw evidence of thousands of submunitions in or near populated areas."

Cluster-weapon use was "significantly more extensive than in Afghanistan," where the United States dropped 1,228 cluster bombs containing 248,056 grenades in a six-month span, according to Human Rights Watch.

A report by the Air Force in late April said U.S. aircraft over Iraq dropped 1,714 cluster bombs containing about 275,000 grenades. No report is available on the number of ground-fired cluster weapons, but throughout the war launchers could be seen firing grenade-carrying rockets.

Efforts to improve grenades stalled when an Army contractor, KDI Precision Products Inc. of Cincinnati, proved unable to mass-produce a secondary fuse for new grenades. A contract signed in 1987 was canceled in 2000.

"It's not an easy technical problem to solve," KDI president Eric Guerrazzi said. He and others say the program might have succeeded with more funding, perhaps to pay a competing firm to work as well on developing the fuses.

Spending on munitions research and procurement dropped from \$18 billion a year during the 1980s to about \$6 billion a year after the Cold War.

"The funding for R and D [research and development] in the Army was minimal, and fusing was the last on the list," said Bruce Mueller, a former Army lieutenant colonel who managed the fuse program for defense contractor Raytheon. "They develop weapons, then they develop munitions, and after they develop munitions, the last thing they worry about is how to fuse them."

A Lingering Threat

The war in Iraq is over, but the danger from the bombing remains. Cluster bombs used by coalition forces showered wide areas and their unexploded remnants pose a threat to Iraqi citizens and U.S. forces.

How They Work

Most cluster munitions consist of four components:

A dispenser, fins, internal fuses and bomblets.

Dispenser is dropped from a warplane like a conventional bomb.

Dispenser is stabilized in flight by fin assemblies.

Internal fuses trigger dispenser to open at a predetermined height above the target.

Dispenser spins and disperses bomblets to target.

Bomblets float to target and detonate.

However . . .

Mechanical and fuse failures can leave some bomblets unexploded. Their toy-like appearance can attract children, with tragic results.

What They're Used For

Cluster bombs are designed to kill troops moving in the open. The smaller explosions spread over acres can take out large numbers of the enemy.

The Bomblets

The bomblets, or submunitions, can be designed for anti-personnel, anti-materiel, anti-tank or dual purposes. They can be fin-guided or parachute-aided.

Cluster bombs can be carried by bombers such as the Air Force's B-52 Stratofortress.

Some, shaped like tennis balls, can be 1.7 inches or 3.9 inches in diameter. Others are cylindrical.

RECOGNIZING DR. KRISHNA REDDY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great community leader and President of the Indian American Friendship Council, Dr. Krishna Reddy, for his commitment to the advancement of the U.S.-India relationship and the Indian-American community.

Dr. Reddy has a remarkable record of advocating on behalf of the Indian-American community. As Founder and President of the Indian American Friendship Council, Dr. Reddy has demonstrated his tremendous dedication to improving U.S.-India relations. His expertise and service have undoubtedly led to increased dialogue and solidarity between these two democracies.

Dr. Reddy's commitment to engaging the Indian-American community in the political process and ensuring that Indian-Americans have a voice in our government is also commendable. His organized efforts have helped educate Congress about issues important to India and the Indian-American community and fostered relationships between Members of Congress and Indian-Americans nationwide.

It is a great honor to pay tribute to Dr. Krishna Reddy and the Indian American Friendship Council.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND
WARTIME LEADERSHIP

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, despite our success in Afghanistan and Iraq, despite our many allies around the world, and despite our unquestionable leadership here at home, the wolves of terrorism are still on the lurk.

Wherever they threaten, we must gird ourselves for battle.

This war presents many foes on many fronts, but we fight it for one purpose: the security of American people.

This week, the House considered one of the tools that will help us win this war: President Bush's "Project Bioshield" initiative. Project Bioshield, as you know, is a comprehensive program to research, develop, and acquire vaccines, drugs, and countermeasures to protect Americans from terrorism.

It will streamline government-sponsored research of biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological weapons and medicines to combat their effects. And it will authorize a special reserve fund to purchase enough of those countermeasures to respond to catastrophic terrorist attacks.

Project Bioshield is another way to protect America, and further evidence that there is no difference between national security and homeland security. Both agendas are designed to win the war on terror and protect the American people from future attack. Thus, we will implement Project BioShield for the same reason we defeated the Taliban and liberated Iraq: Security.

Without security, peace and prosperity will be difficult to find and impossible to preserve.

Without victory in the War on Terror, no fiscal, domestic, or social policy will even survive.

Those are the stakes, Mr. Speaker: the preservation of civilization and hope for peace in the world.

One man who understands those stakes is British Prime Minister Tony Blair, one of the heroes of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the War on Terror.

To show our appreciation for his courage and his friendship, we will welcome Prime Minister Blair to speak to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Thursday.

The American people are safer today because of the support he gave us—and continues to give us—in Iraq . . .

. . . just as they will be made safer by Project BioShield and other security initiatives here at home.

And President Bush and this Congress will work to ensure we stay that way.

Thanks to President Bush, vulnerabilities have been identified and addressed.

Our nation is safer, stronger, and better prepared to meet the next threat, wherever it may emerge.

Wartime leadership, Mr. Speaker, could not be better defined.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2003, I was unavoidably detained due to a delayed flight. Unfortunately, I missed the following Rollcall votes. If I would have been present, I would have voted:

"Yea" for Rollcall 108–354, the Rehberg Amendment.

"Nay" for Rollcall 108–355, the Blumenauer Amendment.

"Nay" for Rollcall 108–356, the Hefley Amendment.

"Nay" for Rollcall 108–357, the Ackerman Amendment.

RECOGNIZING TENSAS REUNION, INCORPORATED

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and accomplishments achieved by Tensas Reunion, Incorporated, located in my home state of Louisiana.

Tensas Reunion, Incorporated, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to develop and implement comprehensive and sustainable programs that improve the quality of life for residents of Tensas Parish and meet the educational needs of the Parish's underserved communities. As we strive to provide our children with brighter futures, organizations like Tensas Reunion are a shining example of how we can improve our educational system through community work.

I would like to commend Tensas Reunion, Incorporated, and I am confident that they will continue their outstanding service that has helped so many children in Louisiana.

Thanks to their tireless dedication Northern Louisiana has grown and continues to grow into stronger community.

REGARDING H.R. 2673 AND THE REIMPORTATION PROVISIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, H.R. 2673:

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug bill, which I supported, contains a provision which allowed for the importation of foreign medicines. However, it also included important safeguards that are not present in the importation provision included in this legislation. These new safeguards include: (1) Limiting reimportation to drugs being reimported from Canada; (2) requiring drugs reimported under its provisions to bear a statement designed to inform the patient that the drug was reimported by someone other than the manufacturer; (3) requiring the use of packaging that is reasonably certain to be tamper-resistant and not capable of counterfeiting; (4) preventing "transshipment" through third world countries by permitting the reimportation only of drugs that have not left the possession of the first Canadian recipient after receipt from the manufacturer; and (5) allowing the Secretary to designate one port of entry in the U.S.

The provision included in the legislation before us allows reimportation from any country. Importing medicines from foreign countries weakens the U.S. pharmaceuticals distribution system by allowing the entry of pharmaceuticals from all over the world—even from countries with demonstrated counterfeiting problems. For example, this proposal would allow importation from South Africa, a country where "Up to 20% of the medicines . . . are fakes or stolen and are almost impossible to distinguish from the real thing."

The provision included in H.R. 1 also requires imported drugs to say they are imported, the provision in this bill does not. Without proper labeling, patients won't know what drugs they are getting. Those of us who are not willing to take the risk with our health will have no way of knowing if they have purchased an imported prescription drug that is contaminated from their neighborhood pharmacy. Proper labeling gives Americans who choose not to use import prescription drugs the means to do so.

This provision would also allow the transshipment of drugs, the provision included in Medicare Prescription Drug bill would not. Transshipment of prescription drugs from country to country provides no pedigree or record of where a particular prescription has been. Without a record of shipment, there is no guarantee of safety. H.R. 1 requires documentation, such as the origin, destination, and lot number assigned to the prescription drug that provides this safety.

It also requires tamper resistant packaging, the provision in this bill does not. H.R. 1 requires prescription drugs from Canada be contained in packaging which the Secretary of Health and Human Services has "determine[d] to be reasonably certain to be tamper-resistant and not capable of counterfeiting." Tamper-resistant packaging provides an extra layer of security to prescription drugs.

Most importantly, the importation provision included in the Medicare Prescription Drug legislation contains language that allows the Health and Human Services Secretary to ensure the safety of the American drug supply and those drugs being imported, the provision included in the Agriculture Appropriations bill does not. The Medicare bill contains language that requires the Secretary of HHS to certify to the Congress that the new imports will (1) pose no additional health and safety risks, and (2) result in significant savings to consumers. This is important, since the safety and cost-savings provision was signed into law by Congress and President Clinton, as part of the "Medicine Equity and Drug Safety Act of 2000," to ensure consumers are protected and that they save money. Since that time, two HHS Secretaries, one Democrat and one Republican, could not demonstrate cost-savings or safety from importation.

The importation provision in the bill before us does not include any safeguards to ensure that the medicines patients receive are safe. I do not support taking this type of risk with the health of patients in my district. While I am voting in favor of H.R. 2673 because of numerous other provisions in the bill, I believe reimportation is poor policy and a serious safety concern to Americans.

REMARKS IN HONOR OF TECKLA HALL

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great shock and even deeper sadness that I come before the United States House of Representatives to announce and mourn the untimely passing of my friend Teckla Hall, of Co-Op City, the Bronx, New York.

Teckla Hall was a driven, passionate advocate for the causes she felt were important—her community, her family, her ancestral roots.

She worked tirelessly on every project she undertook, whether serving on the board of the Riverbay Corporation, where she continually strived to improve the quality of life for all residents; to her service as President of the Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club working to advance her political beliefs; to her leadership in the National Council of Negro Women. Teckla had a quiet yet powerful voice. She was heard. She was listened to. She was respected and admired.

While I only knew Teckla a short time, the brief 6 months she worked as my Office Director in Co-Op City, I admired and respected her.

When visiting Co-Op City looking for a community representative for my Co-Op City office, I continually heard one name—Teckla Hall.

But she was more than a résumé—more than a community leader. She was a beloved